



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
P. O. BOX 1806
CONCORD, NH 03302-1806

INTRA-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
Office of the Commissioner

FROM: Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner

DATE: May 29, 2020

SUBJECT: Re-Opening Committee
Visits and Volunteers

TO: All Staff and Residents

OFFICE: Commissioner's Office
Phone: 271-5603

As a result of the continued concerns regarding COVID-19 in the State, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections will be extending the suspension of visitation and volunteer services in all NHDOC facilities through Friday, June 12, 2020. This includes in-person attorney visits. The Department of Corrections will continue accommodations for electronic attorney/client activity. Tours require preauthorization by the Commissioner and will only be considered if associated with pandemic planning purposes. Events are also postponed through June 12, 2020.

I have established a re-opening committee that will evaluate access and operations associated with our facilities. This Committee will meet next week and then identify additional staff for participation as we look to open areas that have to this point been closed or access significantly altered. We will solicit feedback through the facilities Resident Communication Committee. As the Committee makes recommendations, I will review them and implement as appropriate based on the current facts regarding COVID-19 and reissue updated memorandum for further guidance.

The Department understands the importance of visitation, volunteer programming, interns and attorney/client activity and will be utilizing this committee to assess and monitor the situation on a daily basis. We will lift restrictions when it is safe to do so. Attorneys with urgent needs will continue to contact the Warden or designee for the facility housing their client. As video visitation piloting has begun, we triaged staff and resident feedback and will continue to evaluate it with the goal of expanding its availability balanced by our staffing resources.

We look forward to a new normal that keeps safety and health at the forefront.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Helen E. Hanks", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Helen E. Hanks
Commissioner